

1. What are the water elevation levels behind bulkheads 2 and 3 in the American Tunnel? What documents exist to show this data?

The following table provides information on the nine bulkheads that were constructed by Sunnyside Gold Corporation to impound the Sunnyside mine pool:

Bulkhead Name	Construction Date	Valve Closed	Bulkhead Elevation	Water Pressure	Notes
F-Level Secondary	1-28-1994	n/a	11,592 ft.	36 psi (calculated)	Prevents direct discharge to Mogul Mine
F-Level Primary	3-8-1994	n/a	11,588 ft.	36 psi (calculated)	Twinned with F-level secondary
B-Level Secondary	4-29-1994	n/a	12,148 ft.	Zero, Above Mine Pool	Would prevent direct discharge to Mogul
B-Level Primary	5-24-1994	n/a	12,148 ft.	Zero, Above Mine Pool	Twinned with B-Level Secondary
Terry Tunnel #1	9-1-1994	7-1996	11,555 ft.	40 psi 8-24-2000	3800 Feet Inby the Tunnel Portal
American Tunnel #1	7-7-1995	9-9-96	10,660 ft.	438 psi 5-14-2001	Initial Valve Closure 7-29-96, Later Reopened
Terry Tunnel #2	9-28-2000	10-5-00	11,521 ft.	Not Measured	Stopped Discharge from Near Surface Fractures
American Tunnel #2	8-24-2001	8-31-01	10,612 ft.	175 psi 8-15-2002	Design Pressure, Ground Surface in N. Fk. 277 psi
American Tunnel #3	11-12-2002	12-3-02	10,595 ft.	Not Measured	Reduced Discharge from Near Surface Fractures

Table 1: Sunnyside Mine Bulkheads

The dates in the “Water Pressure” column are the final pressure measurements taken. Those bulkheads are no longer accessible. There are numerous documents containing detailed information about the Sunnyside Mine bulkheads. Those documents are available at www.mining.state.co.us under Permit File M1977378.

2. What stage is the EPA in the installation of bulkheads at Red and Bonita and at the Gold King Mine?

The Red and Bonita concrete bulkhead was placed on 26th of August, 2015. The bulkhead was

installed with a pressure transducer and a pass through pipe for later shut off valve installation. Final grouting work remains before the bulkhead is complete.

No bulkhead has been installed on the Gold King. An assessment to evaluate the feasibility of installing a bulkhead in the Gold King mine has not been completed.

3. What effect would those two bulkheads have on the existing ones in the network of mines in the area?

There is currently no plan to bulkhead Gold King. See Answer to question #4 for potential effect of Red and Bonita bulkhead.

4. Would it raise water levels inside the mountain behind the bulkheads 2 and 3 in the American Tunnel? If so, to what level?

American Tunnel bulkhead #2 is believed to have re-saturated of a near vertical north-south fracture zone located between bulkheads #1 and #2 to an elevation approximately 59 feet higher than the elevation of the Red and Bonita adit. The Red and Bonita adit is believed to intersect the same or a related fracture zone, and it was the installation of American Tunnel bulkhead #2 that caused the Red and Bonita drainage commencing circa 2002-2004. Full re-saturation of the fracture zone may occur with valve closure on the Red and Bonita bulkhead, which would result in approximately 277 psi pressure on the American Tunnel #2 bulkhead.

5. John Reynolds, a consultant for the mining industry based in Durango, delivered a letter to the EPA staff in Colorado last week about a possible consortium of mine operators, proposing a remediation plan. Is this something the EPA would consider? To what extent is the EPA communicating with this group?